

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. The claims in general are amended for one or more non-statutory reasons, for example to correct one or more informalities or obvious errors, remove figure label number(s), remove unnecessary limitations, and/or replace European claim phraseology with U.S. claim language having the same meaning. The claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. Entry after final action is proper because the scope of the claims is not changed and no further searching is required.

The final Office action rejects claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over GB 476,836 A to *Geselleschaft*. Applicant(s) respectfully traverse(s) this rejection. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the cited reference at least because *Geselleschaft* fails to teach or suggest the first current supply conductor having a weld with the first leadthrough conductor and the outer bulb enclosing the first and second current supply conductors as recited in independent claim 1, and therefore also in claims 2, 7 and 8 which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1.

As to the traversal, the Examiner respectfully asserts in the final Office action *“that definitions of the term “enclosing” includes to shut or hem in; close in on all sides; to surround, as with a fence of wall; enfold completely with or as if with a covering”*. The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s definition of *“enclosing”*. Nonetheless, arguendo, a careful review of FIG. 1 of *Geselleschaft* in view of the Examiner’s definition of *“enclosing”* reveals that *Geselleschaft* in fact illustrates a lamp base 8 and a screw cap 24 enclosing a first current supply conductor 17 and a second current supply conductor 18 as opposed to an outer bulb 20 enclosing current supply conductors 17 and 18. Moreover, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are not welded to respective leadthrough conductors 11 and 12. Specifically, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are prolonged wire extensions

of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12, which are downwardly extended into respective holes 9 and 10 of lamp base 8 whereby current supply conductors 17 and 18 are extended through respective holes 15 and 16 of lamp base 8 into cap screw 24 and hermetically sealed within holes 15 and 16 by enamel. Thereafter, a discharge vessel 1 is affixed to leadthrough conductors 11 and 12 and outer bulb 20 is sealed to lamp base 8. Prior to outer bulb 20 being sealed to lamp base 8, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are completely surrounded on all sides by lamp base 8 and screw cap 24 while a significant portion of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12 as well as an entirety of discharge vessel 1 are exposed. Thus, the sealing of outer bulb 20 to lamp base 8 covers the exposed portions of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12 and the entirety of discharge vessel 1, but not current supply conductors 17 and 18. See, *Gesellschaft* at page 2, lines 36-74.

Similarly, a careful review of FIG. 2 of *Gesellschaft* reveals that *Gesellschaft* in fact illustrates lamp base 8 enclosing current supply conductor 17 and 18 as opposed to an outer bulb 20 enclosing current supply conductors 17 and 18. Moreover, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are not welded to respective leadthrough conductors 11 and 12. Specifically, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are prolonged wire extensions of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12, which are downwardly extended into respective holes 9 and 10 of lamp base 8 whereby current supply conductors 17 and 18 are extended through respective holes 15 and 16 of lamp base 8 and hermetically sealed within holes 15 and 16 by enamel. Thereafter, a discharge vessel 1 is affixed to leadthrough conductors 11 and 12, and outer bulb 20 is sealed to lamp base 8, and current supply conductors 17 and 18 are connected to respective terminals 25 and 26 upwardly extending into the holes of lamp base 8. Prior to outer bulb 20 being sealed to lamp base 8, current supply conductors 17 and 18 are completely surrounded on all sides by lamp base 8 while a significant portion of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12 as well as an entirety of discharge vessel 1 are exposed. Thus, the sealing of outer bulb 20 to lamp base 8 covers the exposed portions of leadthrough conductors 11 and 12 and the entirety of discharge vessel 1,

but not current supply conductors 17 and 18. See, *Gesellschaft* at page 2, lines 75-99.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The final Office action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as over GB 476,836 A to *Gesellschaft* in view of EP 0 429 256 A2 to *O/wert*. Applicant(s) respectfully traverse(s) this rejection. Claim 9 is patentable over the cited references at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is patentable under the statute as explained above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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